

IN THE CLAIMS:

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:
 - (a) (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains[[],]; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*[[,]]; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and
 - (b) one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a carrier.
3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is *S. rattus* strain JH145.
5. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is a naturally-occurring mutant that is lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
6. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the *S. oralis* strain is *S. oralis* strain KJ3sm or KJ3.
7. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the *S. uberis* strain is *S. uberis* strain KJ2sm or strain KJ2.
8. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is a genetically modified strain that is lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
9. (Currently Amended) A food composition comprising:
 - (a) (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains[[],]; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*[[,]]; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and
 - (b) one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.

10. (Original) The food composition of claim 9, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
11. (Original) The food composition of claim 9, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is a naturally-occurring mutant that is lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
12. (Original) The food composition of claim 9, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is a genetically modified strain that is lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
13. (Currently Amended) A dentifrice, oral rinse, chewing gum, lozenge, or topical agent composition comprising:
 - (a) (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and
 - (b) one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
14. (Original) The composition of claim 13, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
15. (Original) The composition of claim 13, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is a naturally-occurring mutant that is lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
16. (Original) The food composition of claim 13, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strain is a genetically modified strain that is lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
17. (Original) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to an oral cavity of a subject.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is a mammal.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining oral healthy comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of non-persistently colonizing an oral cavity of a subject with therapeutically-effective bacteria comprising administering to the oral cavity of the subject a combination comprising:
- (a) (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains[[,]]; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*[[,]]; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and
 - (b) one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the combination is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the subject is a mammal.